



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20005

MAILED
JUN 14 2010
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,972,774 :
Issue Date: December 6, 2005 :
Application No. 09/737,489 :
Filed: December 18, 2000 :
Attorney Docket No. 1046.1226/JDH :

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed March 23, 2010, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on December 6, 2009 for failure to pay the 3.5 year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The fees due in connection with this matter are: \$1,640.00 (surcharge) and \$980.00 (3.5 year large entity maintenance fee). As petitioner submitted a maintenance fee in the amount of \$930.00, the remaining fee due (\$50.00) has been charged to the authorized deposit account.

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3205.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

/ALEZIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions